

NMENTALISTS: Elementary stu-DUNG ENVI Britney Hus Left, and Carla Shackelford water newly inted landscar at Howard School of Academics and Tech-logy. They are neir classmates will be assisted on such projs this week 39 other youths from across the nation.

meriCorps To Help tudents At Howard

Proses Stoff Writer

meriCorps, President Clin-a domestic version of the ce Corps, is coming to Chatta-

hirty-nine members of the naal service program will arrive Thursday from 18 cities is the country.

if three days, they will work udding young environmento involved in the local YMCA h Service Corps, a service. learning program that teachen-agers to be leaders in ennmental education and ac-

ired here by the YMCA's ESC tor Amy Conley, the visitors focus their efforts on Howard ol of Academics and Techly, which the former Cleve-"farm girl" admits has beber favorite among the , area schools her program g with.

achers and students from and will enlist their Ameris guests in a number of projects at the school.

The AmeriCorps members will help teachers and students make classrooms better learning envi-ronments, stencil "Dump No Waste, Drains to River" signs on area storm drains, landscape the school grounds and work on the wildlife area behind the school.

We're going to take advantage of their help while they're here, for sure," said Ms. Conley.

"I'm not a Clinton fan, but AmeriCorps seems like a great program, and this may be our only chance to get any assistance from it, the way things are looking in Congress,"

She's right. AmeriCorps is near the top of congressional Republicans' proposed deficit-reduction "hit" list.

Ms. Conley, a greenways coordinator for the national Trust for Public Lands before she resigned to help establish the Earth Service Corps program here last year, is familiar with budget bat-

See AMERICORPS, Page A2

Flower Pe Regard For Enda

By J.B. COLLINS Free Press Urban Affairs Editor

A portion of the city's multimillion-dollar sewer construction project in Big Ridge has been delayed for a year after an endangered plant was found growing in the area, Public Works Administrator Jack Marcellis confirmed.

Work on getting sewers to some 240 houses in two exclusive, lakefront subdivisions was halted after the discovery of the presence of a small wild-

flower called mountain skullcap,

In one case. TVA property was involved and the federal agency noti-fied the city of the presence of the flower within the construction area. This section of 40 houses was pulled out of the contract so that could continue

on the other sections, Mr. Marcellis said.

The homes, located on Lake Shadow Circle, Middle Ridge Lane and Crystal Lake Lane, could have been served by a natural gravity flow, according to lack Wilkinson, city engineer, but because the line had to be moved away from areas where the flowers were growing "tun-neling and pumps" will now have to be used.

Engineers are still working on a design for the project, which

''I don't know there was any could have avoi delays and extr expenses in the ... We didn't ev of the existence flower."

> — Jack Public W

TODAY'S WEATHER

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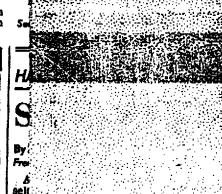
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in the spotlight, George Burns said the comedian's manager, Irspent his 100th hirthday Saturday ving Fein. "George is the same as

Still, the century mark wasn't 70-foot tall electronic marquee to going by unnoticed.

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its longtime headliner.

AmeriCorps: To Help Howard Students

Continued from Page A1

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The federal budget debate was well under way by last October when she attended an Ameri-Corps conference in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York, so the Bradiey County High and UTC graduate made an earnest and apparently persuasive appeal to AmeriCorps leaders to help Chattanooga while they could.

"I just kept telling them how beautiful Chattanooga is and how much progress is being made here on the environment through community initiatives and that they really ought to come here and see for themselves," said &e energetic Earth Service Corp. director.

Convinced, AmeriCorps & rted designating a team that we come here from such far-fluid les as New York, Chicago, Solate and San Francisco.

Mr. Vely's vote would assure

which is scheduled to be voted on

in out six weeks. Four votes for

plan have already been count-

But Mr. Lively stressed the

need to keep spending for the

combined system "within rea-

son." He said the county should

cated along the eastern shore of

Lake Chicksmauga. They are served by septic tanks but about

20 percent are having drain field

problems and their owners would

welcome the sewer service the

city is trying to extend to them,

according to the city engineer.

Mr. Wilkinson said the flower,

councilp said.

Continued from Page A!

Lively Doubts \$22 Mil

Flower: Delays Sewer Work

Although she regularly works at various schools and centers with her staff members Kristin Knight and Jason Shelton, Ms. Conley said she feels especially drawn to the students at Howard. "They'e so into it, they're really bright and in (Lyndhurst Foundation-honored teacher) Gilda Lyos they have an outstanding environmental mentor."

Already, Ms. Conley and Ms. Byon have led the students in researching environmental problems and tackling many of them.

Their appreciation for the environment makes students from the school, which was built on a former dump site, "especially a good match for these AmeriCorps folks to work with," Ms. Conley added.

The visitors coming this week were selected from AmeriCorps' nearly 25,000 members as YMCA Earth Service Corps Fellows. They are specially trained to help

"tighten their belts like private

businesses are having to do" in

developing the new school system

and to come up with a more reasonable figure than the \$22 mil-

And he also suggested that whatever tax increases are need-

ed to produce their final figures should be put to a referendum, as

required for any increase in the

area along the Tennessee River

But the city has learned the hard way that it also grows in

other sections here and any con-

struction that threatens it is in

"I don't know that there was

any way we could have avoided

the delays and extra expenses in

these cases," Mr. Marcellis said.
"The complaints came from the

outside, and we didn't even know

of the existence of this flower."

just west of Chattanooga.

danger of being halted.

lion currently discussed.

sales tax here.

community-based YMCA staff members, teachers, middle and high school students and other community volunteers "get things done," said Ms. Conley, on three fronts: the environment, education, and community-building.

Through AmeriCorps, more than 3,000 low-income teen-agers across the nation have planted hundreds of trees; removed trash from inner cities, beaches and public lands; monitored water quality in local streams and watersheds; started school-based recycling programs; removed graffiti from public and private property; and established enveronmental education in elementa ry schools.

HATTANOOGA FREE PRESS

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which blooms in May, is on the endangered plant list, although it is known to flourish in the canyon

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